THE SENTRY
MARVEL
KNIGHTS

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THE SENTRY
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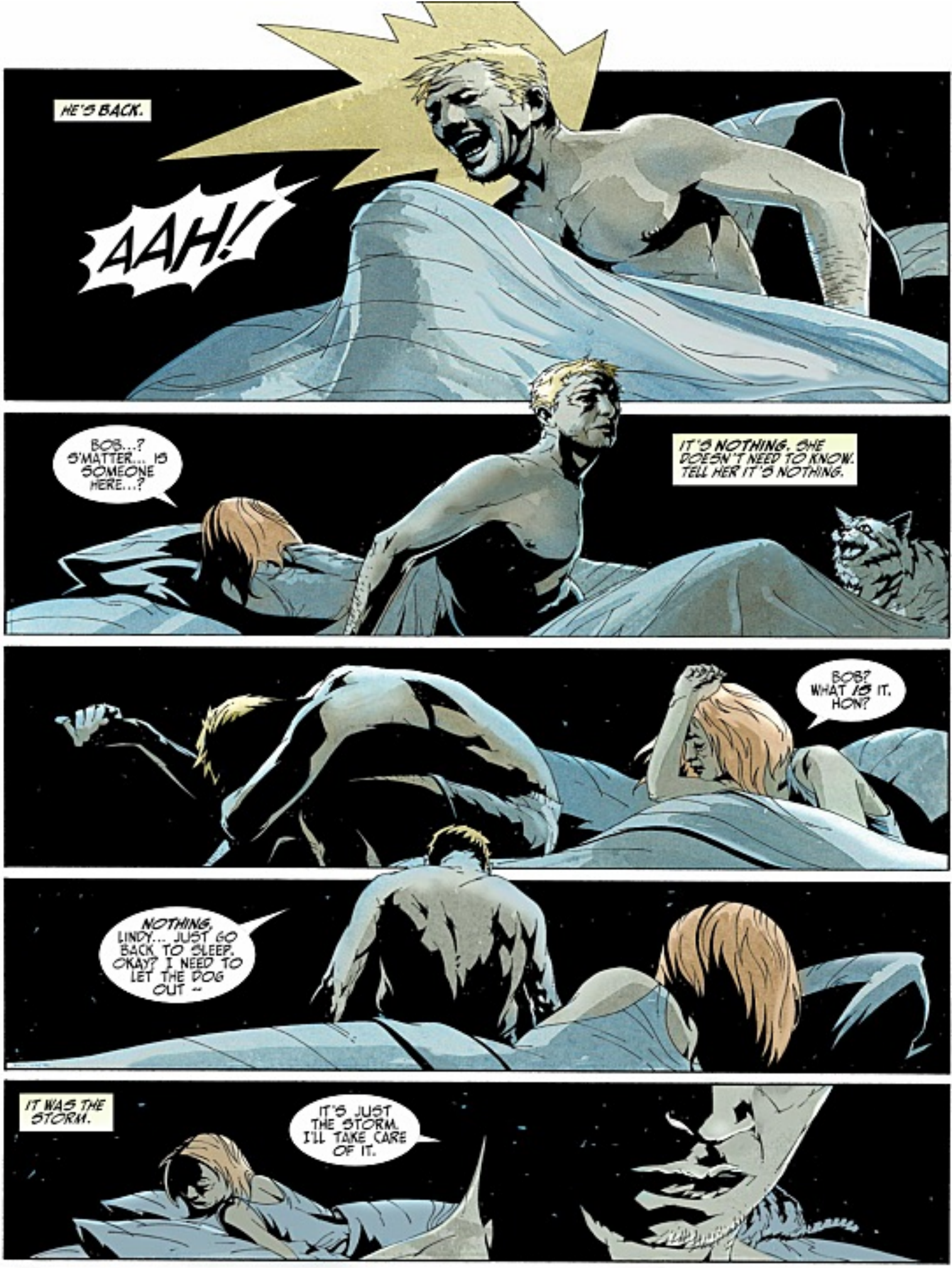
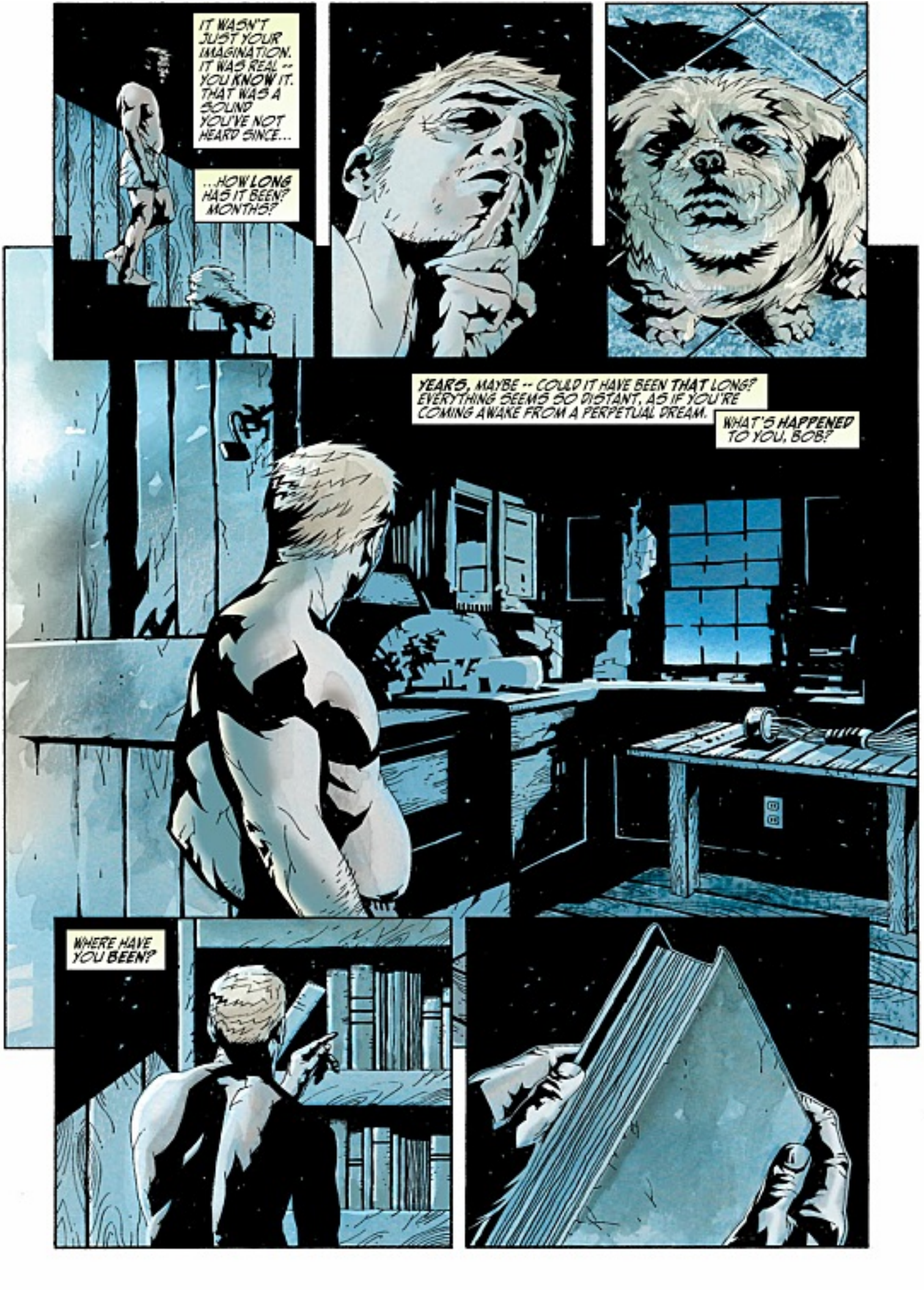
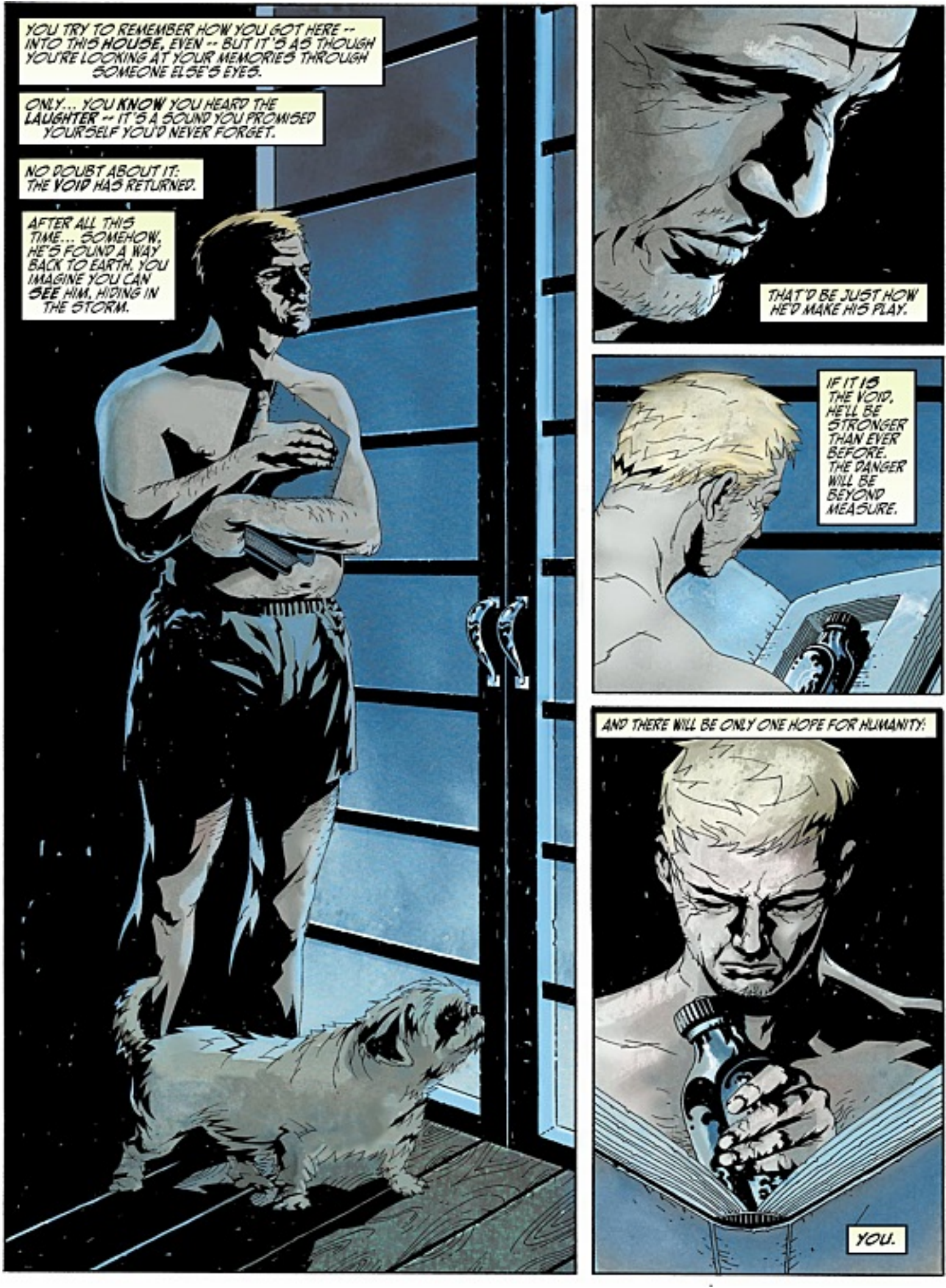
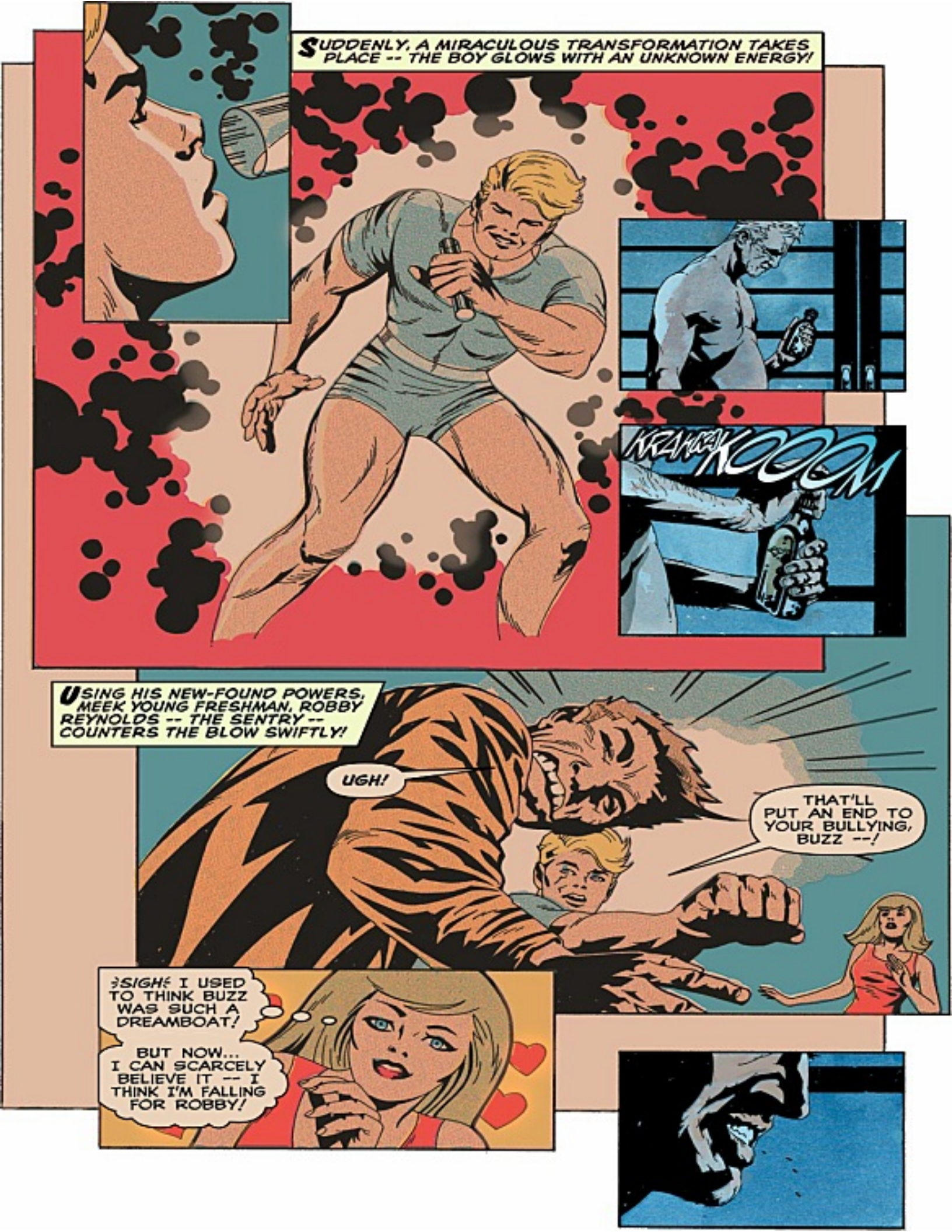
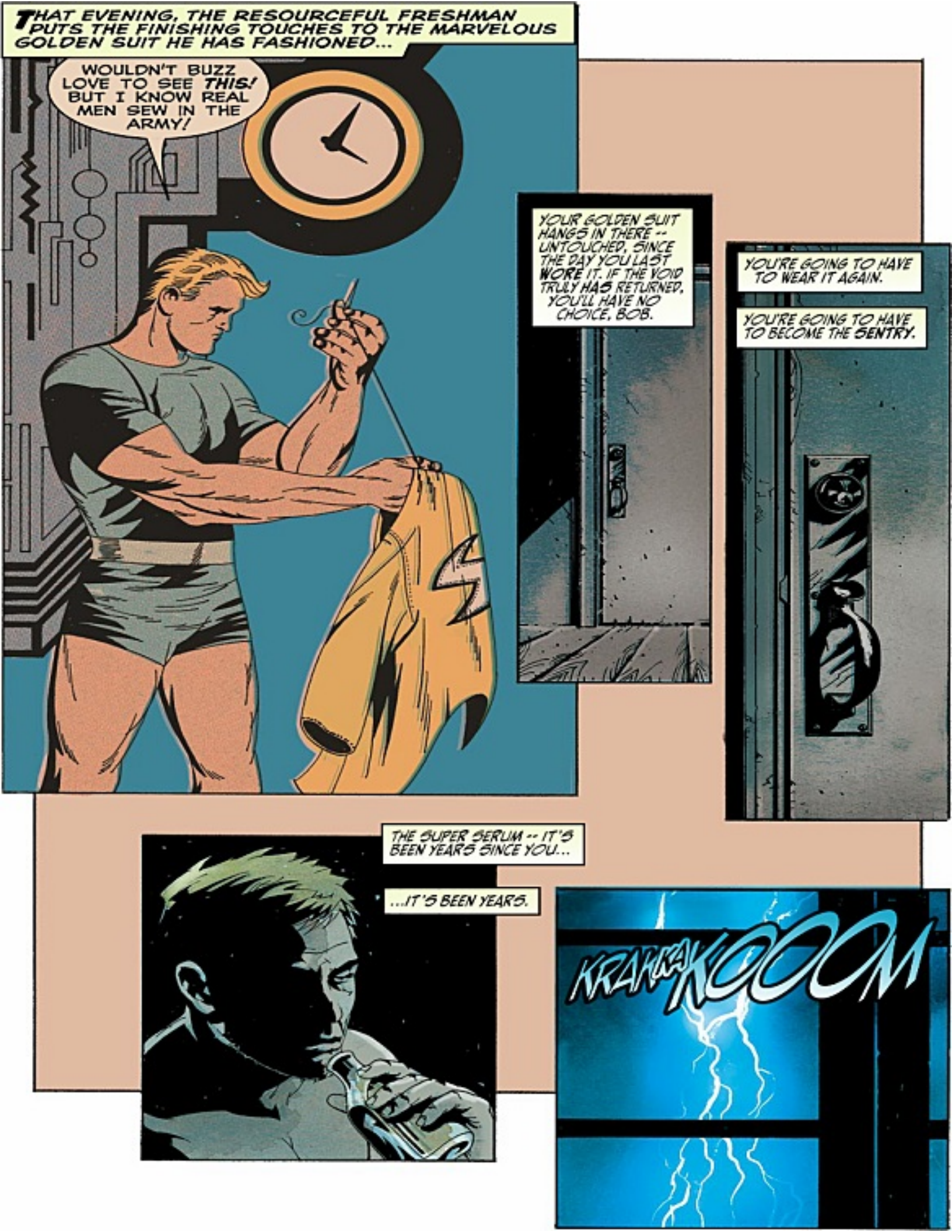

HE'S BACK.
AAH!
BOB...? S'MATTER... IS SOMEONE HERE...?
IT'S NOTHING. SHE DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW. TELL HER IT'S NOTHING.
BOB? WHAT IS IT, HON?
NOTHING, LINDY... JUST GO BACK TO SLEEP. OKAY? I NEED TO LET THE DOG OUT --
IT WAS THE STORM.
IT'S JUST THE STORM. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

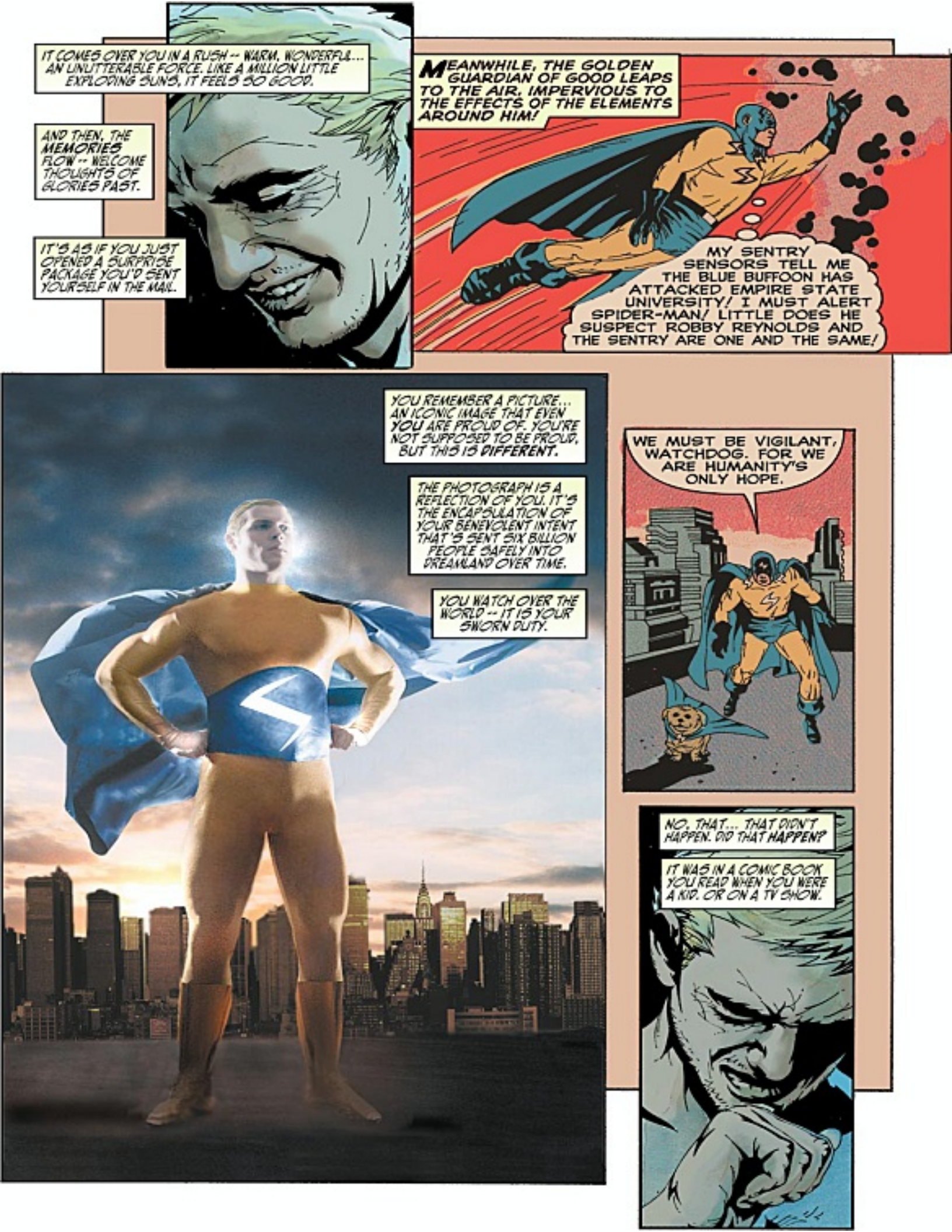

IT WASN'T JUST YOUR IMAGINATION. IT WAS REAL -- YOU KNOW IT. THAT WAS A SOUND YOU'VE NOT HEARD SINCE...
...HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN? MONTHS?
YEARS, MAYBE -- COULD IT HAVE BEEN THAT LONG? EVERYTHING SEEMS SO DISTANT, AS IF YOU'RE COMING AWAKE FROM A PERPETUAL DREAM.
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU, BOB?
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?


YOU TRY TO REMEMBER HOW YOU GOT HERE -- INTO THIS HOUSE, EVEN -- BUT IT'S AS THOUGH YOU'RE LOOKING AT YOUR MEMORIES THROUGH SOMEONE ELSE'S EYES.
ONLY... YOU KNOW YOU HEARD THE LAUGHTER -- IT'S A SOUND YOU PROMISED YOURSELF YOU'D NEVER FORGET.
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT: THE VOID HAS RETURNED.
AFTER ALL THIS TIME... SOMEHOW, HE'S FOUND A WAY BACK TO EARTH. YOU IMAGINE YOU CAN SEE HIM, HIDING IN THE STORM.
THAT'D BE JUST HOW HE'D MAKE HIS PLAY.
IF IT IS THE VOID, HE'LL BE STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE. THE DANGER WILL BE BEYOND MEASURE.
AND THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE HOPE FOR HUMANITY:
YOU.

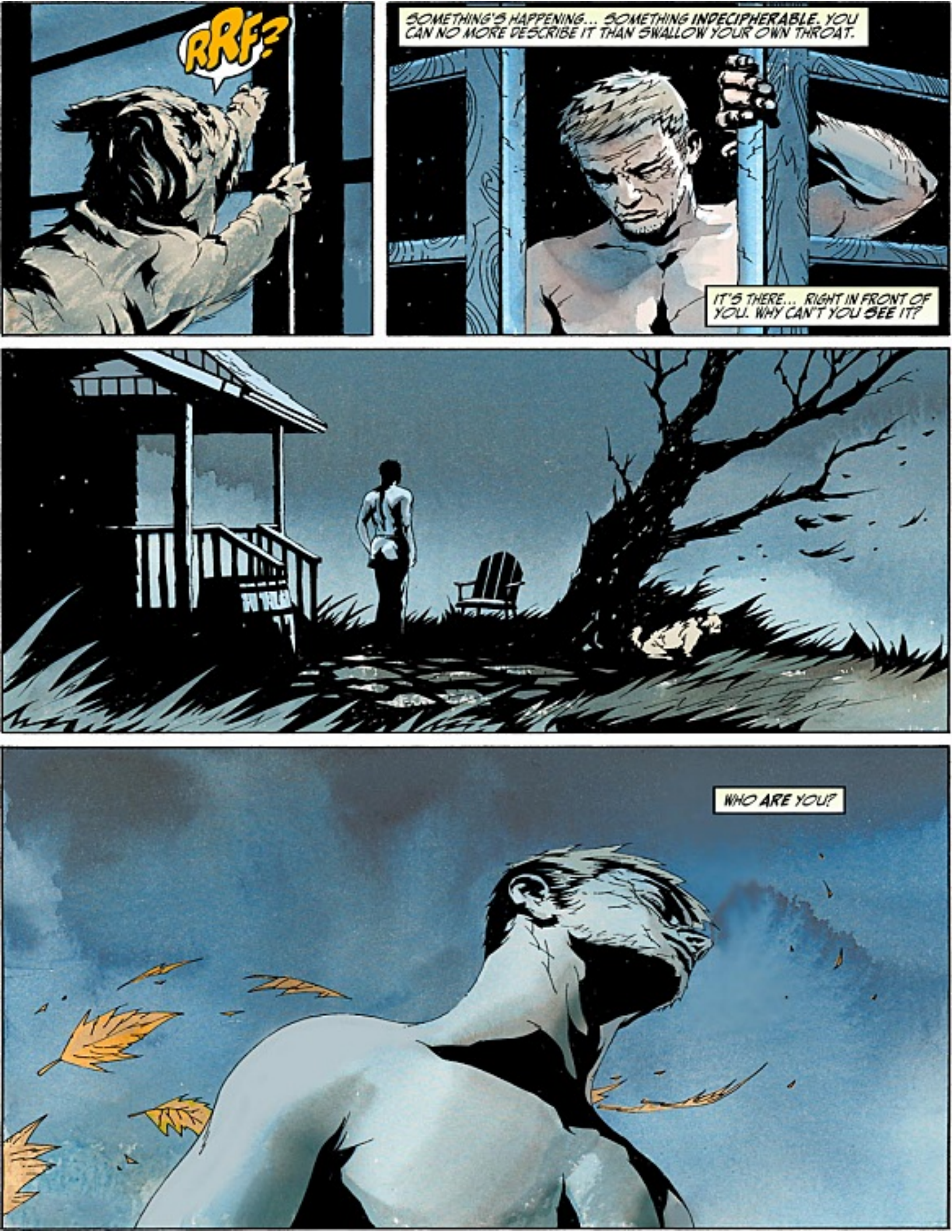
STARTLING STORIES Featuring
THE SENTRY!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
WITH THE POWER OF A MILLION EXPLODING SUNS!
ARE YOU READY FOR THE SECRET OF... THE SENTRY?
YOU ASKED FOR IT, LOYAL READERS! INTRODUCING: THE GREATEST HERO OF THEM ALL -- THE GOLDEN GUARDIAN OF GOOD!
ROBBY DISCOVERS THE PROFESSOR'S SECRET FORMULA!
GOSH -- THIS MUST BE THE PROFESSOR'S SECRET FORMULA!
GOSH, YOU THINK, THIS MUST BE THE PROFESSOR'S SECRET FORMULA.
WE MUST BE VIGILANT, WATCHDOG, FOR WE ARE...
...WE'RE HUMANITY'S ONLY HOPE...


SUDDENLY, A MIRACULOUS TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE -- THE BOY GLOWS WITH AN UNKNOWN ENERGY!
KRAKKK
KOOOM
USING HIS NEW-FOUND POWERS, MEEK YOUNG FRESHMAN, ROBBY REYNOLDS -- THE SENTRY -- COUNTERS THE BLOW SWIFTLY!
UGH!
THAT'LL PUT AN END TO YOUR BULLYING, BUZZ --!
SIGH I USED TO THINK BUZZ WAS SUCH A DREAMBOAT!
BUT NOW... I CAN SCARCELY BELIEVE IT -- I THINK I'M FALLING FOR ROBBY!

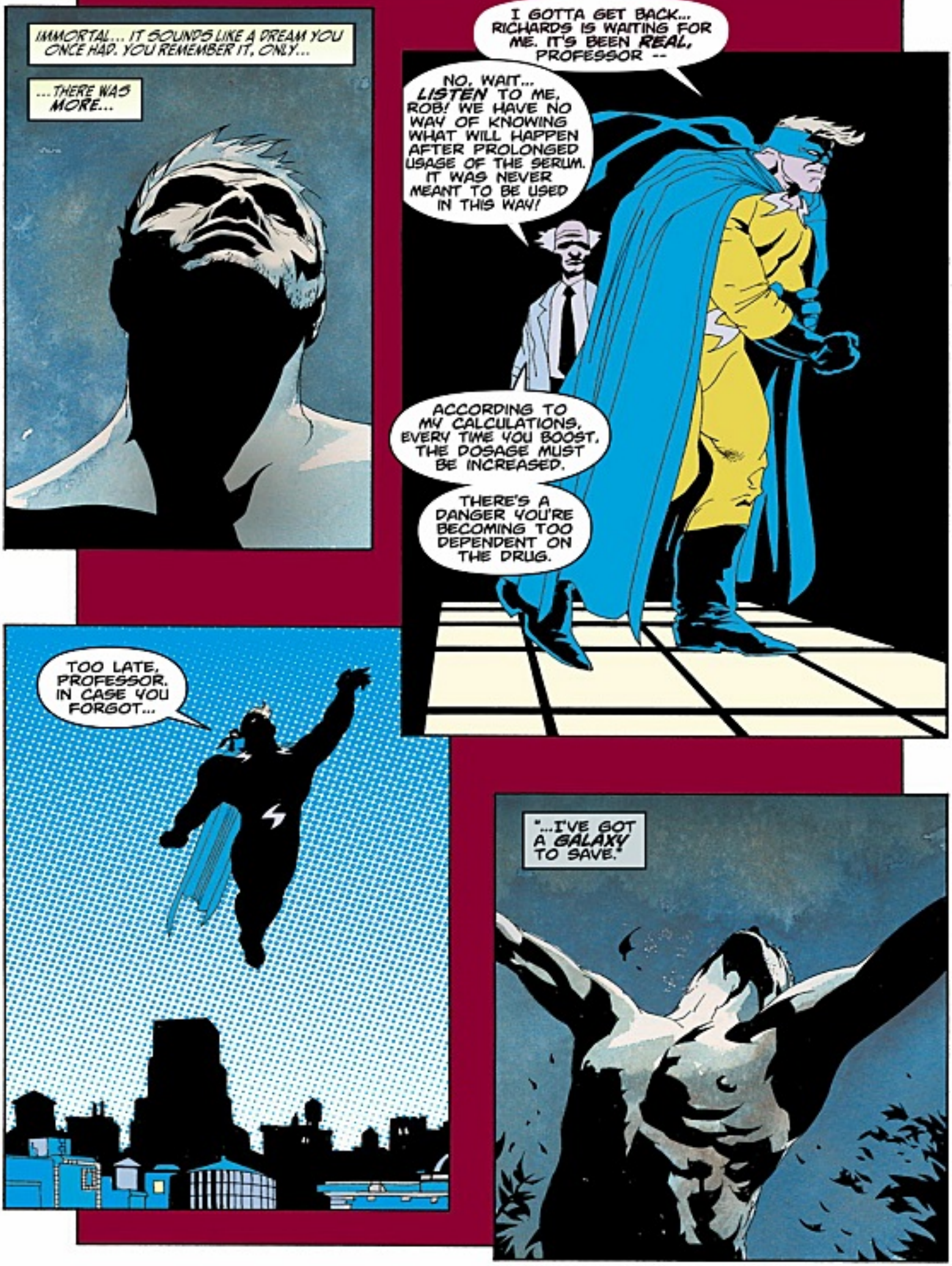

THAT EVENING, THE RESOURCEFUL FRESHMAN PUTS THE FINISHING TOUCHES TO THE MARVELOUS GOLDEN SUIT HE HAS FASHIONED...
WOULDN'T BUZZ LOVE TO SEE THIS! BUT I KNOW REAL MEN SEW IN THE ARMY!
YOUR GOLDEN SUIT HANGS IN THERE -- UNTOUCHED, SINCE THE DAY YOU LAST WORE IT. IF THE VOID TRULY HAS RETURNED, YOU'LL HAVE NO CHOICE, BOB.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WEAR IT AGAIN.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BECOME THE SENTRY.
THE SUPER SERUM -- IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE YOU...
...IT'S BEEN YEARS.
KRAKKA KOOM

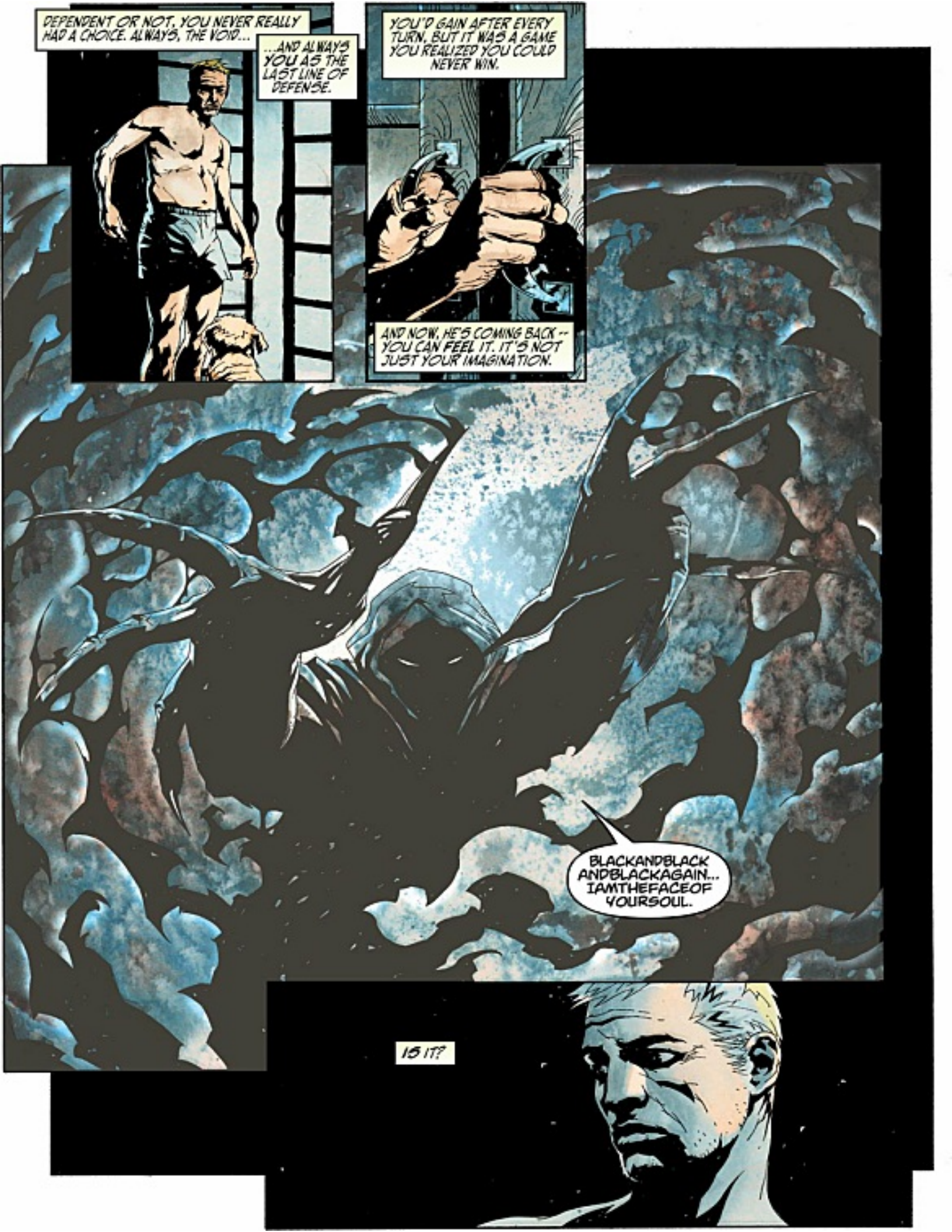

IT COMES OVER YOU IN A RUSH -- WARM, WONDERFUL... AN UNUTTERABLE FORCE. LIKE A MILLION LITTLE EXPLODING SUNS, IT FEELS SO GOOD.
AND THEN, THE MEMORIES FLOW -- WELCOME THOUGHTS OF GLORIES PAST.
IT'S AS IF YOU JUST OPENED A SURPRISE PACKAGE YOU'D SENT YOURSELF IN THE MAIL.
MEANWHILE, THE GOLDEN GUARDIAN OF GOOD LEAPS TO THE AIR, IMPERVIOUS TO THE EFFECTS OF THE ELEMENTS AROUND HIM!
MY SENTRY SENSORS TELL ME THE BLUE BUFFOON HAS ATTACKED EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY! I MUST ALERT SPIDER-MAN! LITTLE DOES HE SUSPECT ROBBY REYNOLDS AND THE SENTRY ARE ONE AND THE SAME!
YOU REMEMBER A PICTURE... AN ICONIC IMAGE THAT EVEN YOU ARE PROUD OF. YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE PROUD, BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT.
THE PHOTOGRAPH IS A REFLECTION OF YOU. IT'S THE ENCAPSULATION OF YOUR BENEVOLENT INTENT THAT'S SENT SIX BILLION PEOPLE SAFELY INTO DREAMLAND OVER TIME.
YOU WATCH OVER THE WORLD -- IT IS YOUR SWORN DUTY.
WE MUST BE VIGILANT, WATCHDOG. FOR WE ARE HUMANITY'S ONLY HOPE.
NO. THAT... THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN. DID THAT HAPPEN?
IT WAS IN A COMIC BOOK YOU READ WHEN YOU WERE A KID. OR ON A TV SHOW.

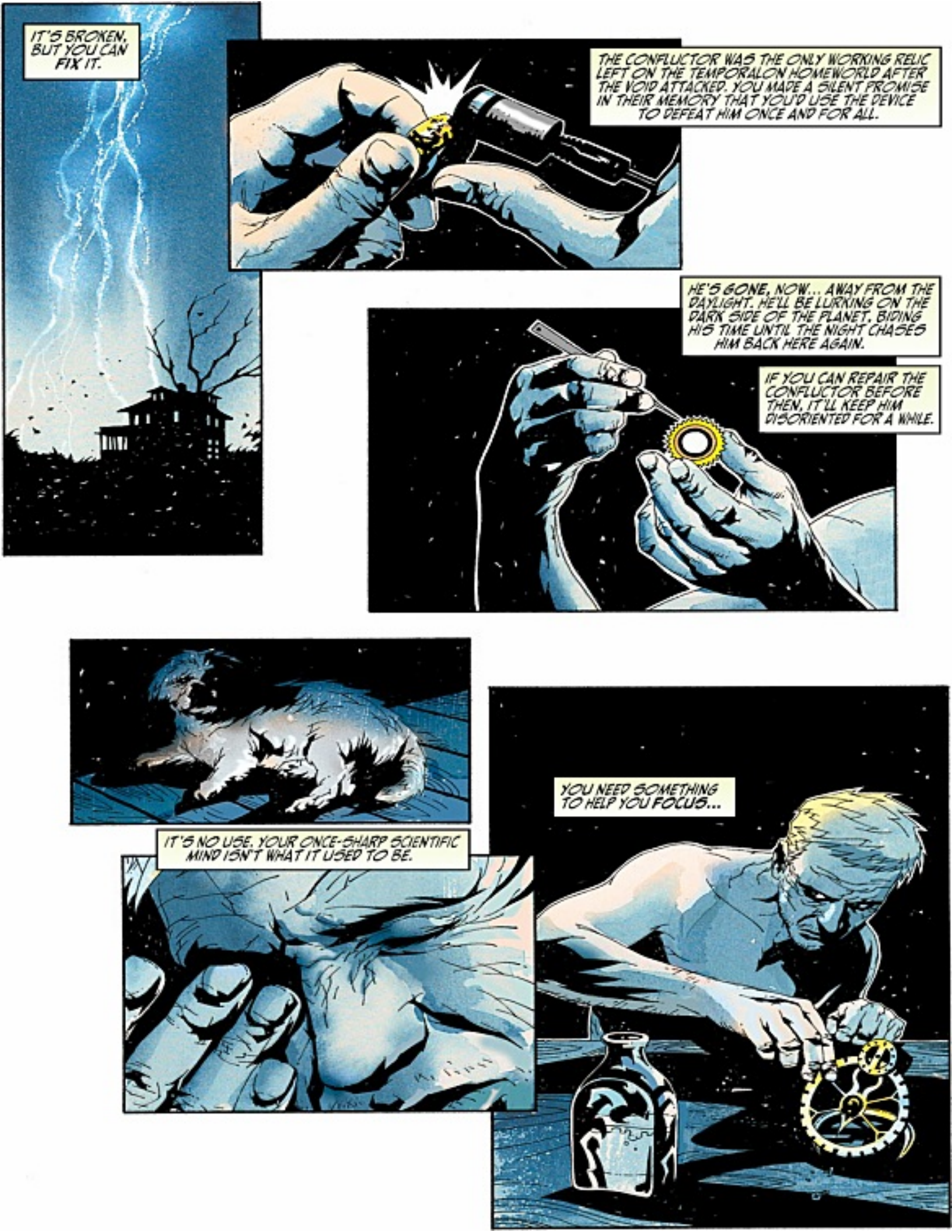
BUT THE VOID IS REAL. HE HAS TO BE REAL... YOU KNOW HIM ALMOST AS WELL AS YOU KNOW YOURSELF.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? WHY IS IT SO HARD TO REMEMBER?
AS THE STUNNED AVENGERS STRUGGLE TO BREAK FREE, EVEN IRON MAN'S AMAZING SUIT IS NO MATCH FOR THE VOID'S COSMIC COCOONS...
BLAST YOU, VOID -- LET US GO!
HA HA! NOT A CHANCE, IRON MAN! WITH THE AVENGERS HELD CAPTIVE, SURELY THE MIGHTY SENTRY WILL SOON FOLLOW!
BUT SUDDENLY, WITH THE POWER OF A MILLION EXPLODING SUNS...
SOONER THAN YOU BARGAINED FOR, VOID!
BAH! I WILL RETURN SENTRY! I WILL RETURNNN#
"I WILL RETURN." HE ALWAYS SAID THAT. EVEN WHEN YOU THOUGHT HIM BEATEN FOREVER, HE'D SAY IT.
HE ALWAYS KEPT HIS WORD.

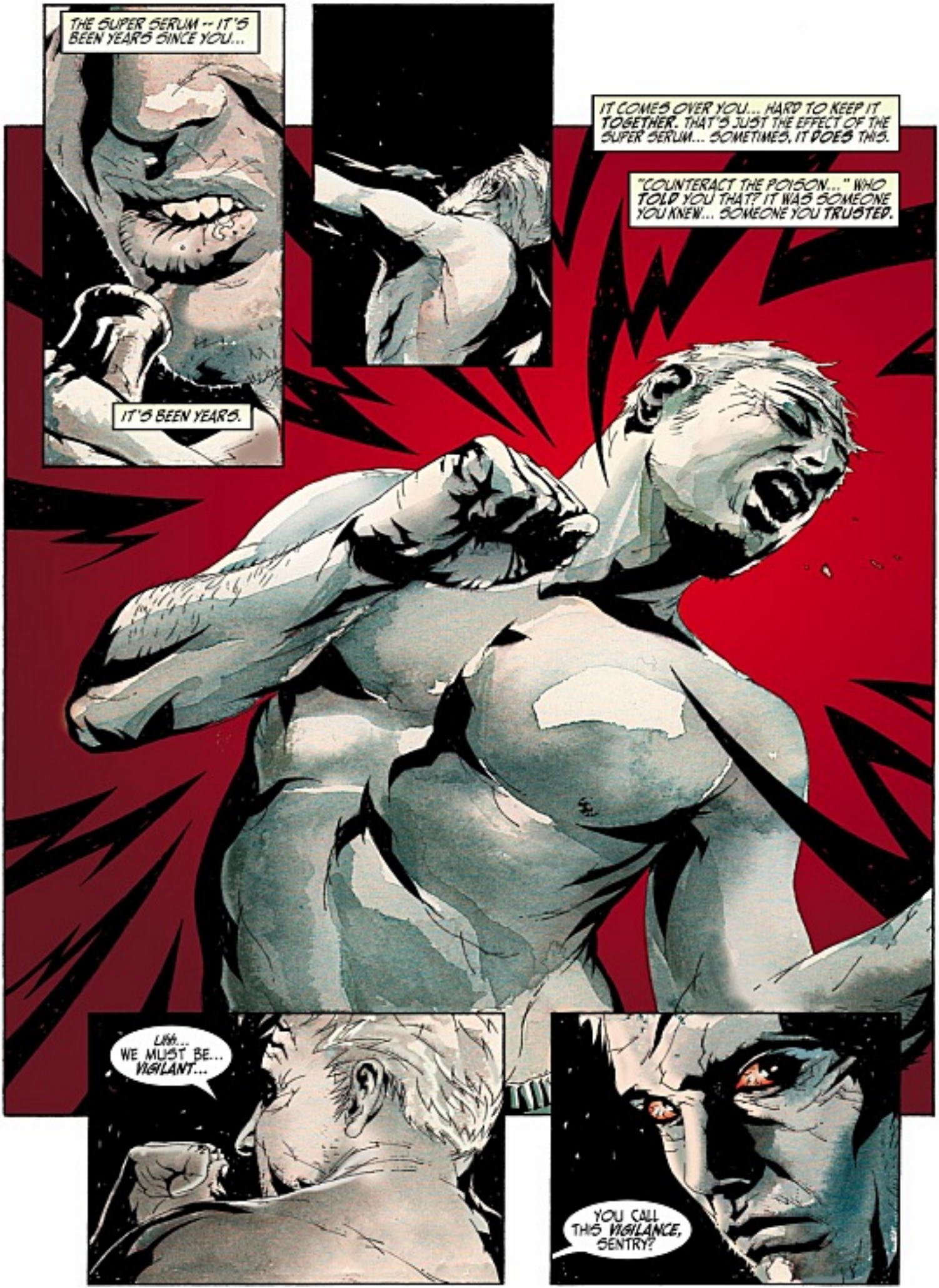

RRF?
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING... SOMETHING INDECIPHERABLE. YOU CAN NO MORE DESCRIBE IT THAN SWALLOW YOUR OWN THROAT.
IT'S THERE... RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU. WHY CAN'T YOU SEE IT?
WHO ARE YOU?

SENTRY
BUT WHERE ENDS THE NIGHT...?"
...THE SERUM CREATES A PHASE-SHIFTING EFFECT IN THE MOLECULES OF YOUR BODY, CAUSING EACH ATOM TO STEP AN INSTANT AHEAD OF THE CURRENT TIMELINE.
LISTEN TO ME, SENTRY -- IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU UNDERSTAND! SOMEHOW, THE SERUM INDUCES A PHOTOSYNTHETIC REACTION, CREATING A HYPERSTATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS...
I'D HEARD THE OLD MAN HARP ON ABOUT IT SO MANY TIMES, I COULDA RECITED HIS SPIEL BACKWARDS.
MY POWERS COME FROM THE SUN -- EVEN THE VOID KNOWS THAT.
CUT TO THE CHASE, PROF. DO I WIN THE PRIZE, OR WHAT?
IN EFFECT, YOUR POWERS ARE LIMITLESS, MY BOY. THERE IS NOTHING YOU CANNOT DO. YOU'VE CONQUERED THE TIME AND SPACE ITSELF. YOU ARE OMNIPOTENT.
IMMORTAL.


IMMORTAL... IT SOUNDS LIKE A DREAM YOU ONCE HAD. YOU REMEMBER IT, ONLY...
...THERE WAS MORE...
I GOTTA GET BACK... RICHARDS IS WAITING FOR ME. IT'S BEEN REAL, PROFESSOR --
NO, WAIT... LISTEN TO ME, ROB! WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER PROLONGED USAGE OF THE SERUM. IT WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE USED IN THIS WAY!
ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, EVERY TIME YOU BOOST, THE DOSAGE MUST BE INCREASED.
THERE'S A DANGER YOU'RE BECOMING TOO DEPENDENT ON THE DRUG.
TOO LATE, PROFESSOR. IN CASE YOU FORGOT...
"...I'VE GOT A GALAXY TO SAVE."

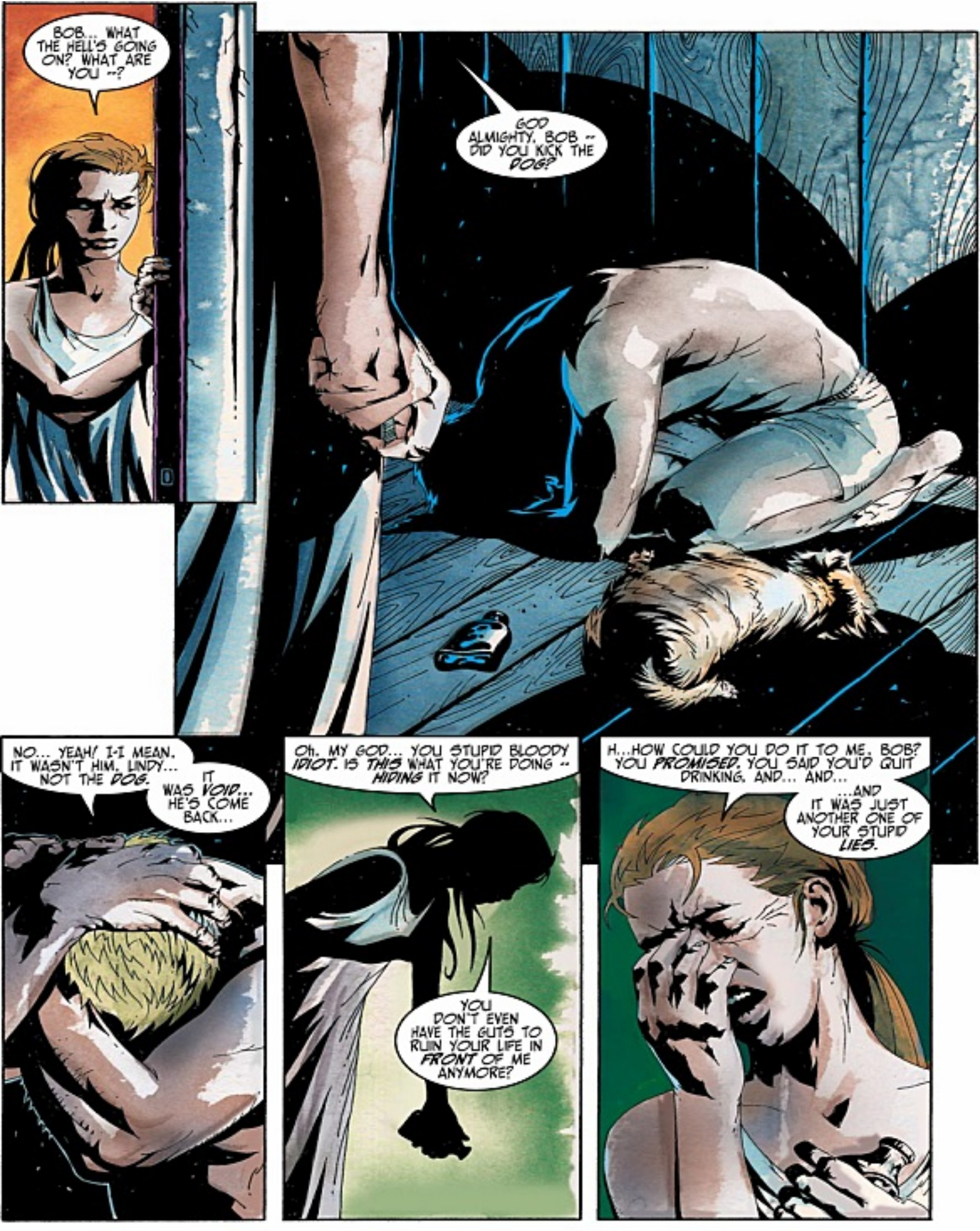

DEPENDENT OR NOT, YOU NEVER REALLY HAD A CHOICE. ALWAYS, THE VOID...
...AND ALWAYS YOU AS THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE.
YOU'D GAIN AFTER EVERY TURN, BUT IT WAS A GAME YOU REALIZED YOU COULD NEVER WIN.
AND NOW, HE'S COMING BACK -- YOU CAN FEEL IT. IT'S NOT JUST YOUR IMAGINATION.
BLACKANDBLACK ANDBLACKAGAIN... IAMTHEFACEOF YOURSOUL.
IS IT?

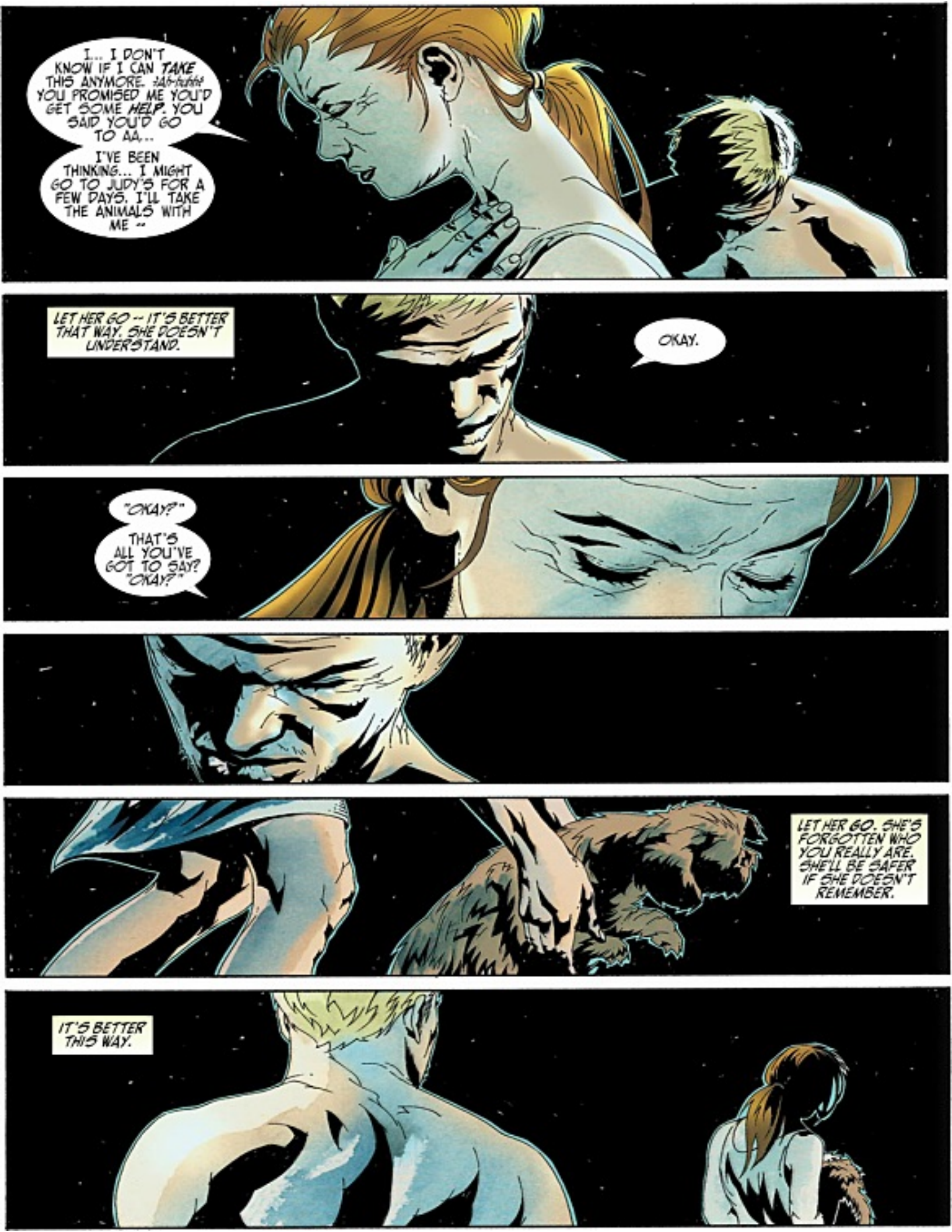

IT'S BROKEN, BUT YOU CAN FIX IT.
THE CONFLUCTOR WAS THE ONLY WORKING RELIC LEFT ON THE TEMPORALON HOMEWORLD AFTER THE VOID ATTACKED. YOU MADE A SILENT PROMISE IN THEIR MEMORY THAT YOU'D USE THE DEVICE TO DEFEAT HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL.
HE'S GONE, NOW... AWAY FROM THE DAYLIGHT. HE'LL BE LURKING ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE PLANET, BIDING HIS TIME UNTIL THE NIGHT CHASES HIM BACK HERE AGAIN.
IF YOU CAN REPAIR THE CONFLUCTOR BEFORE THEN, IT'LL KEEP HIM DISORIENTED FOR A WHILE.
IT'S NO USE. YOUR ONCE-SHARP SCIENTIFIC MIND ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE.
YOU NEED SOMETHING TO HELP YOU FOCUS...

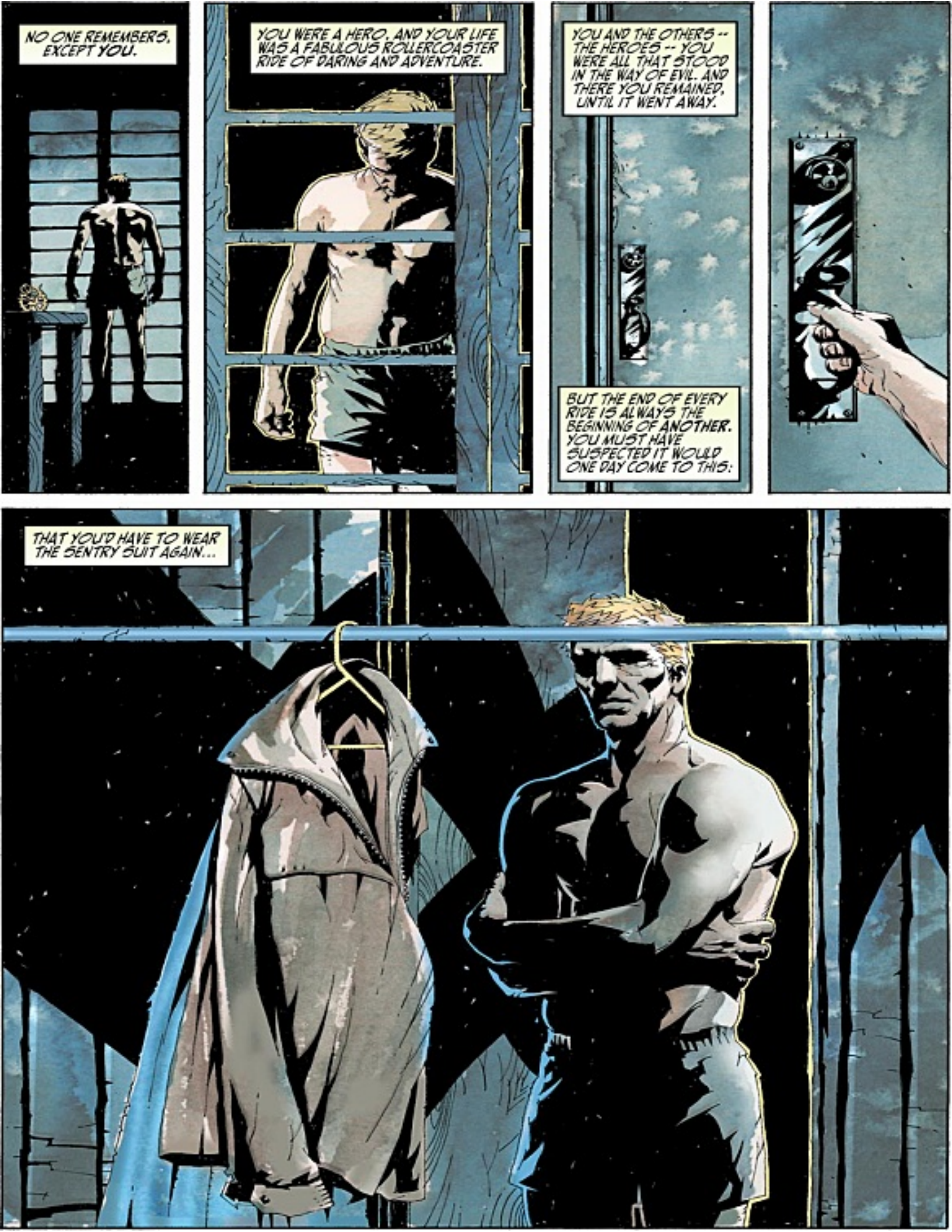

THE SUPER SERUM -- IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE YOU...
IT'S BEEN YEARS.
IT COMES OVER YOU... HARD TO KEEP IT TOGETHER. THAT'S JUST THE EFFECT OF THE SUPER SERUM... SOMETIMES, IT DOES THIS.
"COUNTERACT THE POISON..." WHO TOLD YOU THAT? IT WAS SOMEONE YOU KNEW... SOMEONE YOU TRUSTED.
LAHH... WE MUST BE... VIGILANT...
YOU CALL THIS VIGILANCE, SENTRY?

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE OPENED THE DOOR TO ME, ROBERT.
I *TOLD* YOU I WOULD RETURN.

NN-AHH... GET AWAY! YOU'RE NOT REAL!
PATHETIC. DIRTY LITTLE JUNKIE... DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD SEND ME AWAY FOREVER?
AND WHAT THEN -- NO MORE SENTRY TO SOOTHE HUMANITY'S FEVERED BROW?
TH-THERE IS NO SENTRY... THERE'S NO VOID... THEY DON'T EXIST ANYMORE --
LIAR! I AM ALL THINGS -- I AM THE VOID! I AM THE FACE OF YOUR SOUL.
YOUR WIFE IS THE VOID! YOUR HOUSE IS THE VOID! YOU ARE THE VOID!
NO! YOU'RE NOT REAL!


BOB... WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON? WHAT ARE YOU --?
GOD ALMIGHTY, BOB -- DID YOU KICK THE DOG?
NO... YEAH! I-I MEAN, IT WASN'T HIM, LINDY... NOT THE DOG.
IT WAS VOID... HE'S COME BACK...
Oh, MY GOD... YOU STUPID BLOODY IDIOT. IS THIS WHAT YOU'RE DOING -- HIDING IT NOW?
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE GUTS TO RUIN YOUR LIFE IN FRONT OF ME ANYMORE?
H...HOW COULD YOU DO IT TO ME, BOB? YOU PROMISED. YOU SAID YOU'D QUIT DRINKING. AND... AND...
...AND IT WAS JUST ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR STUPID LIES.


I... I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN TAKE THIS ANYMORE. SOB-SNIFF YOU PROMISED ME YOU'D GET SOME HELP. YOU SAID YOU'D GO TO AA...
I'VE BEEN THINKING... I MIGHT GO TO JUDY'S FOR A FEW DAYS. I'LL TAKE THE ANIMALS WITH ME --
LET HER GO -- IT'S BETTER THAT WAY. SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.
OKAY.
"OKAY?"
THAT'S ALL YOU'VE GOT TO SAY? "OKAY?"
LET HER GO. SHE'S FORGOTTEN WHO YOU REALLY ARE. SHE'LL BE SAFER IF SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER.
IT'S BETTER THIS WAY.


NO ONE REMEMBERS, EXCEPT YOU.
YOU WERE A HERO, AND YOUR LIFE WAS A FABULOUS ROLLERCOASTER RIDE OF DARING AND ADVENTURE.
YOU AND THE OTHERS -- THE HEROES -- YOU WERE ALL THAT STOOD IN THE WAY OF EVIL. AND THERE YOU REMAINED, UNTIL IT WENT AWAY.
BUT THE END OF EVERY RIDE IS ALWAYS THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER. YOU MUST HAVE SUSPECTED IT WOULD ONE DAY COME TO THIS:
THAT YOU'D HAVE TO WEAR THE SENTRY SUIT AGAIN...

GOD. YOU THINK. IT FEELS GOOD TO PUT THE OLD SUIT ON AGAIN.
THE SENTRY SIGNAL! YOUR PEOPLE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU -- THEY NEED YOU!
ONCE MORE INTO THE BREACH -- FOR HUMANITY'S SAKE.
ONCE MORE. THE SENTRY.
NOW IS A TIME FOR VIGILANCE...
TK